

PRELIMINARY

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina ranks 37th among the states in number of local governments, with 701 as of June 2002.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (46)

There are no areas in South Carolina lacking county government. Counties are administered by a council, council-manager, council-supervisor, council-administrator or board of commissioners form of government, as determined by referendum.

SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (269)

Municipal Governments (269)

Municipal governments in South Carolina are the cities and towns. They are administered by a mayor-council, council, or council-manager form of government. There are no differences in their legal powers or status that would affect their classification for census purposes.

Township Governments (0)

“Townships”, originally authorized under the provincial (royal) government by the Township Act of 1731 with additional townships authorized in 1761, were established as geographic areas on the frontier for the settlement of families recruited from Germany and from Switzerland. The South Carolina Constitution authorizes the general assembly to organize townships and to provide a form of government and references to “townships” appear in the state statutes. “Townships” currently exist as geographic areas within some counties and are for the administration of property taxation. They are not counted as governments for census purposes.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (85)

School District Governments (85)

The following types of school districts in South Carolina are counted as separate governments for census purposes:

Countywide school districts
Independent school districts

Of the 85 school districts in South Carolina, 29 are countywide; the other 17 counties in the state are divided into two or more independent school districts.¹

Under general law, each county has a county board of education consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor; in counties with an elected superintendent of education, the superintendent of education is an ex officio member of the board. Under general law also, final determination of the county school district budget is by the county board of education, except in those counties for which local legislation directs a review of the budget by the county governing body. In counties divided into two or more independent school districts, general law provides that the county board of education appoint a board of trustees to administer each school district. County boards of education, in those counties where they still exist, are a part of their respective county governments and are not counted as separate governments.

By special local legislation, there are numerous exceptions to the pattern established under general law. Special local legislation frequently modifies the operating provisions for individual school districts. As of the 2002-2003 school year, no districts conformed to the general law.

As of fiscal year 2002, only five county boards of education having varying responsibility still exist, all in counties having multiple school districts. County board size ranges from seven to ten members with three boards elected (Anderson, Marion, and Orangeburg counties) and two appointed by the legislative delegation (Clarendon and Dillon counties). Twelve counties having multiple school districts do not have a county board of education. Only Oconee County has an elected superintendent of education, with the duties being clerical. County boards in Anderson and Marion counties have fiscal authority over the local district boards; the county board in Orangeburg County has limited fiscal authority over local district boards.. The county boards in Clarendon and Dillon counties have authority to appoint all or a portion of the local school board members.

Under local legislation, 23 local districts have total fiscal independence, 26 districts have no fiscal authority, 33 local districts have limited fiscal authority, and 3 districts have statutory millage limits.² In the 26 districts having no fiscal authority, 20 local school districts (13 counties) have budgets approved by the county council, 3 local school districts (Dillon 1-3) have budgets approved by the legislative delegation, and 3 local school districts (Florence 2, 3, 5) have budgets approved at town meetings.

Local school district boards are comprised of elected members only in 77 of the 85 districts, a combination of elected and appointed members in one district (Clarendon 1), and appointed members only in seven districts. Board size ranges from 5 to 12 members. Board of trustees is the most frequently used name for local school district boards.

Three counties (Aiken, Charleston, and Chesterfield) which have a countywide school district also have geographic subdivisions within the countywide districts which serve administrative purposes.

Dependent Public School Systems

There are no dependent school systems in South Carolina.³

Other Educational Activities

The joint vocational schools, sometimes called "area vocational centers," are formed by agreement between participating school districts. The boards of the joint vocational schools are appointed by the boards of the participating school districts from among their own number. These schools are jointly funded by the participating school districts, and are classified as joint educational service agencies of those districts. They are not counted as separate governments, but should not be confused with the "technical colleges," below. As of fiscal year 2002, 13 area vocational centers were reported in operation. F.E. Dubose, previously classified as an area vocational center, became a campus of Central Carolina Technical College, continuing to serve the same school districts as before but offering education at the postsecondary and college level.

South Carolina laws provide for the establishment of special acts junior colleges as an extension of school district services; however, none exist. In addition, although none exist, one or more county governments may establish higher education commissions to operate facilities for junior colleges operated as branches of state universities and colleges. These commissioners are not counted as separate governments, but are classified as county government agencies.

The technical colleges (listed as "area technical schools" in the 1987 Census of Governments) receive county appropriations, in addition to state administered or appropriated funds, and are administered by area commissions. They are subject to state policy and budgetary controls and are classified as state institutions for census reporting. They are not counted as separate governments.

County superintendents provide services to school districts in certain counties. These officials are classified as county officers, and are not counted as separate governments. This office has been abolished in some counties by special acts.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (301)

South Carolina statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governments. These are discussed in detail below.

Airport Districts

South Carolina has special acts that have established specific airport districts to provide and operate airport facilities. Five of these airport districts are counted as special district governments:

Charleston County Airport District. Special legislation in 1970 provided for an airport district in Charleston County and an authority board to administer the district. The district was created to provide air transport facilities in Charleston County and owns and operates three airports: Charleston International Airport, Charleston Executive Airport (Johns Island), and East Cooper Airport. The authority board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor on local recommendation plus the mayors of Charleston, North Charleston, and the town of Mt Pleasant and the chairperson of the Charleston county council, all serving ex officio. The authority board may impose rates and charges, accept grants, and levy ad valorem taxes. General obligation bonds of the authority must be authorized by the general assembly.

Greenville Airport Commission. This commission, created by special act in 1928, owns and operates the Greenville Downtown Airport, a general aviation airport. It is governed by a board of five members of which two are appointed by the county of Greenville, two are appointed by the city of Greenville, and one is appointed by the aforementioned four. The commission may fix and collect fees and charges, and may issue bonds.

Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District. This district, established by special act in 1959, owns and operates the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. The governing body is a commission consisting of three members from each county appointed by the Governor on local recommendation. The commission may fix rates and charges for facilities, accept grants from public and private sources, and issue revenue bonds. The district also is authorized, in accordance with the 1959 legislation, to issue a maximum of six million dollars in general obligation bonds for capital construction projects. When such bonds are outstanding, the state comptroller general may levy an ad valorem tax on all taxable property within the district, to be collected by Greenville and Spartanburg counties, sufficient to pay principal and interest. Although general obligation bonds have been issued for multiple capital construction projects, the ad valorem tax option was exercised only once, for the initial airport establishment and construction.

Pee Dee Regional Airport District. This district, originally authorized in 1991, failed to organize effectively and dissolved in 1992. Following amendments in 1998 to the original legislation, the airport authority organized and now owns and operates Florence Regional Airport. The district includes the counties of Florence, Marion, and Dillon and is governed by the Pee Dee Regional Airport Authority consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor on local recommendation of each of the three county councils and of the Florence city council. Legislation authorizes county per capita appropriations. The authority may fix and collect rents, fines, fees and charges; accept grants; and may issue revenue bonds. General obligation bonds for capital construction projects may be issued subject to approval by the county boards of all counties within the district and optional referendum. When such bonds are issued, counties within the district may levy an ad valorem tax on all taxable property within the district.

Richland-Lexington Airport District. Established by a special act in 1961, this district owns and operates Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The district is governed by a 12-member commission appointed by the Governor on local recommendation. The commission may fix rates and fees, accept grants, and issue revenue bonds. On occasion, the district has been authorized by statute to issue general obligation bonds in limited amounts for specified capital projects. When such bonds have been outstanding, the state government has levied an ad valorem tax on all taxable property in Richland and Lexington counties, collected by the respective counties, for payment of the principal and interest.

Auditorium Districts

The following districts, which may build, operate, or maintain auditorium facilities, were created by special act:

Greenville Arena District. ⁴ This district is governed by a board of trustees appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the Greenville County legislative delegation. The district may issue bonds, fix charges, and levy ad valorem taxes.

Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium District. This district is governed by a 13-member board appointed by the Spartanburg city council; the Spartanburg County council; and a joint committee consisting of representatives of the city, county, and district governing bodies; and having two ex officio members from the city and county councils.. The district may fix and collect charges, accept grants, and issue bonds.

Drainage Districts

South Carolina statutes authorize the following types of drainage districts to provide drainage of farmlands

and to reclaim swampland:

Drainage districts (1920 law)--These districts are created by the court of common pleas on petition of landowners and after referendum. An elected board of supervisors governs each district. The district may levy benefit assessments and issue bonds.

Levee or drainage districts (1911 law)--These districts may be created by the clerk of the court of common pleas on petition of landowners. An elected board of drainage commissioners governs each district. The district may issue bonds and levy benefit assessments.

Electric Lighting Districts, Fire Districts, Sewer Districts, and Water Districts

A general law provides for the creation upon petition and subject to referendum of these four types of districts in any portion of a county not included in any incorporated city or town. Statutory provisions allow some districts to provide water, sewerage and fire protection in areas outside of the district. The functions performed by these districts vary according to the provisions of the specific authorizing legislation, but may include electric power, fire protection, sewerage, and water supply with some fire protection districts also authorized to provide emergency medical services. An elected board of commissioners governs each district. The districts may issue bonds after referendum, and may fix and collect charges for services. If the income of the district is insufficient to meet expenses, the district may levy ad valorem taxes with the approval of the county supervisor. Similar provisions apply to the Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority, founded in 1925, which provides wastewater treatment services in a four-county area..

Districts and authorities with similar provisions as to financing were created also by special acts of the general assembly prior to the enactment and implementation of home-rule legislation. Some districts created prior to home-rule legislation are authorized by law to levy ad valorem taxes. Such districts continuing to operate without modifications allowed by statute as described below generally have governing bodies appointed by the Governor on local recommendation. Under one statute, voters have the option only of converting the district governing body from an appointed board to an elected board. Under a second statute, voters may opt either to designate the district as an independent district with an elected board or to designate the district as one fiscally dependent on the county government with an appointed board. A third option is for the district function to be absorbed by the county following an act of the general assembly and subject to referendum.

Because of the varying provisions in specific authorizing legislation, not all of these districts are counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate

Agencies and Areas," below.

Gaffney Board of Public Works

This board was established by a special act to provide electric power, sewerage, and water supply to Gaffney and to the surrounding areas of Cherokee County. The board is elected and may fix charges. The town of Gaffney, subject to voter approval, issues bonds to finance projects of the board; the town must hold the bond election if requested to do so by petition of voters or by action of the board.

Other boards of public works in South Carolina are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Gas Authorities

These authorities are created by special acts to provide natural gas service, but provisions for each authority are similar. A board appointed by the Governor governs each authority. The authority may issue revenue bonds and fix and collect charges for gas sold.

General legislation effective in 2003, allows two or more special purpose districts created for the principal purpose of furnishing natural gas, following resolution, to form a joint agency for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, owning, operating, etc. a project. The joint agency is governed by a board of directors appointed by the governing body of each member of the joint agency. A joint agency may issue revenue bonds; may establish and collect rents, rates, fees, and charges; and may accept grants and gifts. For statistical purposes, these joint agencies will be treated as special districts.

Greater Greenville Sanitation District

Created by special act, this district provides sanitation facilities such as refuse, garbage, and trash collection in specified areas. A board of commissioners appointed by the Governor governs the district. The district may charge collection fees, levy taxes, and issue general obligation bonds.

Hartsville Community Center Building Commission

This commission was created by a special act to provide for a community center. The commission is appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Darlington County legislative delegation. The commission may fix and collect charges for the use of its facilities. Darlington County issues bonds for the commission upon voter approval.

Hospital Districts

Hospital districts are established by special acts to provide, operate, and maintain hospitals, but with

substantially uniform provisions for each district. A board appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the county council or legislative delegation governs each district. The districts may issue bonds upon voter approval, fix and collect rates, and determine the amount of ad valorem tax to be collected by the county to pay principal and interest on bonds.

Following implementation of 1975 home-rule legislation, statutory powers and functions of public service districts remained with the districts and authority to modify those powers remained with the state general assembly. The governing body of any hospital district, however, subject to referendum, is authorized to transfer assets, properties, and responsibilities to another entity and to dissolve the district.

Housing Authorities

Four types of housing authorities to provide assisted housing and development projects are authorized in South Carolina – city, county, regional, and consolidated housing authorities. An individual municipality or county may establish a housing authority on resolution of the city council or the county legislative delegation or on petition of residents. Similarly, two or more contiguous counties may establish a regional housing authority, and two or more municipalities may form a consolidated housing authority. The city council of the municipality (in the case of city housing authorities) or the county senators (in the case of consolidated, county or regional housing authorities) appoint the housing authority commissioners. The authorities may issue bonds, establish charges for the use of facilities, and accept grants and contributions from the federal government.

Joint County Fire Districts

Established by special acts, these joint county districts have substantially similar operating provisions. The board may be elected or appointed. All are authorized to levy, sometimes referred to as "specify", ad valorem taxes which are collected by the respective counties. Four such districts currently exist:

Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire District
(Georgetown and Horry counties)

Pelham-Batesville Fire District (Greenville and Spartanburg counties)

Gowensville Fire District (Greenville and Spartanburg counties)

South Lynchess Fire District (Florence and Williamsburg counties)

Joint Municipal Electric Power and Energy Agencies

These agencies may be established under general law upon the resolution or by ordinance of the governing bodies of two or more municipalities to ensure adequate, reliable, and economic supply of electric power and energy. Joint agencies created under this law are not authorized to distribute or sell electric energy or service to retail customers. A board of directors appointed by the governing body of each member municipality governs each agency. The agencies may fix rates and charges, and may issue revenue bonds.

The Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, incorporated in 1975, was created under this act. The agency has an ownership interest in the Catawba Nuclear Station and provides wholesale electric service to ten member municipal utilities in the upstate of South Carolina. Piedmont Municipal Power Agency and the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency jointly own the Catawba 2 nuclear power plant; operation of the plant is contracted out to a private operator.

Joint Municipal Water Systems

These systems are created by resolution or ordinance of two or more counties, towns, or cities, or combination thereof. These systems may acquire and operate any water treatment system or water distribution system and may sell water at retail and at wholesale. A 1999 amendment authorizes the organization of joint systems for the purpose of creating a financing pool. A board of commissioners, one appointed by the governing body of each participating government, governs each system. The systems may fix rates, rents, and other charges, and may issue revenue bonds.

The Lake Moultrie Water Agency comprised of Berkeley County and the cities of Goose Creek, Moncks Corner, and Summerville was formed under this legislation. All facilities for the treatment and distribution of wholesale water are owned and operated by the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper), a state agency, as the Santee Cooper Regional Water System.. All financial and employment activity related to this water agency are accounted for in activities of the four local governments and those of the authority. The Lake Marion Water Agency, projected to begin operation in 2006, once operational, will operate in the same fashion with all facilities owned and operated by the authority. During startup and construction, financial activity will be reported as that of the Lake Marion Water Agency.

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission

This commission was created by the 1994 consolidation, authorized by county ordinance, of two separate districts for water distribution and sewerage previously established in 1972 by special acts. The consolidated district is responsible for operation of the retail water distribution system, the development of

water resources, the distribution of wholesale water, and the protection of water quality. The commission is appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the county governing body. The commission may set rates and collect fees and may issue revenue bonds.

Old Abbeville District Historical Commission

This commission was authorized under a special act to preserve and maintain properties of architectural or historical value in Abbeville, Greenwood, and McCormick counties. The commission consists of nine members, six of whom are appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the three county legislative delegations plus the chairmen of the three county historical societies serving ex officio . The commission may fix and collect fees, receive state and federal grants, and borrow money. Created to receive an historic property that was to be operated as a museum, the commission has since transferred the property to the state government and depends largely on grants to fund history related projects. The commission was listed under recreation districts in the 1997 organization description.

Public Service Districts and Metropolitan Districts

These districts, created by special acts prior to implementation of 1975 home-rule legislation, have substantially uniform provisions in most instances. The functions performed by districts of these two types vary according to the provisions of the specific authorizing legislation; examples of functions performed include fire protection, street lighting, sewerage, solid waste disposal, and water supply. A board of commissioners, usually appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the county legislative delegation, governs each district. The districts may levy ad valorem taxes, fix charges, and issue bonds after referendum.

Following implementation of 1975 home-rule legislation, statutory powers and functions of public service districts remained with the districts and authority to modify those powers remained with the state general assembly. Acts to dissolve districts or to transfer the function to the county government are subject to referendum within the district. Since implementation of home-rule legislation, some districts previously classified as special districts have become dependent activities of the county governments.

Districts of this type that are governed by the county council are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Recreation Districts

A number of recreation districts to provide, operate, and maintain recreational facilities have been established by special acts; similar provisions apply to

each. A board appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the county legislative delegation, or by the county council, or both governs each district. The district board may impose user charges and accept grants. Some individual districts may also levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

Those recreation districts that lack substantial fiscal autonomy (i.e., the power to set their own budgets or to receive revenues other than grants or appropriations) are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Redevelopment Authorities to Acquire and Dispose of Federal Military Installations

These authorities to redevelop former military bases are created by an executive order of the Governor, or by a joint resolution of affected counties, and municipalities. They are governed by boards appointed by state, county, and municipal authorities. The authorities may collect fees, and charges and issue revenue bonds. The Myrtle Beach Air Base Redevelopment Authority, and the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority were created under this law.

The state of South Carolina classifies both authorities as being jointly governed by the state government and by the associated local governments. Previously classified as a special district, the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority has been reclassified as dependent on the state government. A majority of the land from the naval base is being converted to uses of the South Carolina Ports Authority.

Regional Health Service Districts

Districts to build, maintain, and equip health care facilities or nonprofit hospitals are created by ordinance of the governing bodies of one or more counties or any municipality or municipalities within their boundaries. A board of directors appointed by the member governments governs each district. The districts may accept grants, impose service charges, and issue bonds.

Regional Transportation Authorities

These authorities to provide transit service are established by resolution of the governing bodies of any two or more local governments within a state-defined regional transportation area. The authority governing body must have a minimum of five members and consists of members who may be elected officials of the member local governments and who are appointed by each member local government and also up to three members appointed by the county legislative delegation, if provided for in the agreement. Additional contiguous cities and counties may join. The authorities may set rates and fares and

may issue revenue bonds. They may operate transit service or lease the system to a private firm for operation under contract.

Richland-Lexington Riverbanks Park District

This district, established by special act, provides for a park and zoo in Richland and Lexington counties. A seven-member board of commissioners, of which two are appointed by the Richland County council, two by the Lexington County legislative delegation, two by the mayor and city council of Columbia, and one by all of the appointing authorities acting together, governs the district. The district may accept grants, set and collect charges, issue bonds, and levy ad valorem taxes. This district was listed under recreation districts in 1997.

Rural Community Water Districts

These districts are formed by petition of landowners to the county governing body, and voter approval. They are governed by boards appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the county legislative delegation. A district may fix and collect user fees and charges, and issue revenue bonds. Several of these districts were created by special act under similar provisions.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

These districts are created by the department of natural resources on petition of landowners, after local referendum. A five-member board of commissioners, two appointed by the department and three elected, governs each district. The districts may accept grants and require contributions from benefited landowners.

In addition, special legislation provides for the establishment of watershed conservation districts by a soil and water conservation district on petition and after local referendum. An elected board of directors governs each watershed conservation district. If certain conditions are met the governing body may be appointed by the soil and water conservation district, and county governing body if approved by the voters. The district may levy taxes and issue bonds with voter approval. The district's budget is subject to the approval of the soil conservation district creating it. For census purposes, watershed conservation districts are classified as dependent agencies of the establishing soil and water conservation districts, and are not counted as separate governments.

Tricounty Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

This commission was created by special act to aid in the prevention and control of alcohol and drug abuse in the counties of Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg. It is governed by a board appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the respective county legislative delegations. It may fix, and collect fees and charges, receive the proceeds of county

alcoholic beverage taxes, and incur debt for capital expenditures. Revenues also include state block grant funds and appropriations passed through the three member counties. Other counties in the state provide alcohol and drug abuse services through the individual county governments. In the 1992 Census, and earlier this entity was classified as a joint county agency.

SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

Shown below are various governmental designations in South Carolina that have certain characteristics of governmental units but that are classified in census statistics as subordinate agencies of the state or local governments and are not counted as separate governments. Legal provisions for some of the larger of these are discussed below (see "Public School Systems," above, regarding educational agencies of this nature).

Among the subordinate agencies and areas listed below, some represent "special taxing areas" within the territory of an established government. This method of financing additional services in limited areas by property taxation, while also used by some municipal and township governments in a few states, is more widely utilized by county governments. In the listing below of authorized county-related agencies, a bullet (*) appears for each entity of this kind--i.e., any that may individually serve a portion, rather than all, of a county and for which a tax may be levied against the assessed value of property in the area served.

Connector 2000 Association, Inc. (state). Created in 1996 to assist the South Carolina Department of Transportation in the financing, acquisition, construction, and operation of turnpikes and other transportation projects, primarily the project known as the Southern Connector in Greenville County, the association is authorized to collect tolls and to issue bonds.

Savannah Lakes Regional Loan Fund (state). Formed in 1990, this fund has a six-member board of directors consisting of three members from each of two state agencies, the Department of Commerce and the Jobs – Economic Development Authority. The fund maintains a revolving loan fund, originally capitalized by the state government, for the purpose of promoting economic development in the Savannah Lakes Region.

South Carolina Education Lottery (state). Established by special act in 2001, the lottery is governed by the nine-member South Carolina Lottery Commission of which three are appointed by the Governor, three by the president pro tempore of the senate, and three by the speaker of the house. Net revenues of the lottery are deposited in the education lottery account; appropriations from the account by the general assembly must be for educational purposes and for programs defined by statute. Appropriations

are to supplement and not to supplant existing funds used for education. Lottery ticket sales began January 2002 and quarterly appropriations from the education lottery account began July 2002.

South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper Power) (state). This authority, a public utility company established in 1934 by special act, provides electric power and, since 1994, wholesale water and is responsible for reclamation on the Congaree, the Cooper, and the Santee Rivers. In addition to its other facilities for power generation, the authority is a joint owner of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County. The authority board consists of 11 directors appointed by the Governor; 1 from each congressional district, 1 each from the counties of Horry, Berkeley, and Georgetown; and 2 at large. The authority may issue revenue bonds and collect tolls and charges for use of its facilities and services.

The authority owns and operates all facilities for the treatment and distribution of wholesale water to member governments of the Lake Moultrie Water Agency, a joint municipal water agency. All financial activity of the Lake Moultrie Water Agency is accounted for in the financial reporting of the four member local governments and in the reporting of the authority. The Lake Marion Water Agency, projected to begin operation in 2006, once operational, will operate in the same fashion with all facilities owned and operated by the authority. During startup and construction, financial activity will be reported as that of the Lake Marion Water Agency.

South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority (state). This authority, formerly named the South Carolina State Housing Authority, was created to coordinate the development of low-income housing in the state, and to provide mortgage credit for low and moderate income housing. The authority governing board has nine members, including seven members appointed by the Governor, plus the Governor and the commissioner of health and environmental control or their designees in an ex officio capacity. The authority may accept grants and contributions, fix fees and charges, make mortgage loans, and issue revenue bonds.

South Carolina Tourism Regions (state). South Carolina is subdivided into 11 tourism regions, all associated with the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, for the purpose of promoting tourism in multi-county areas. These regions are funded almost totally by state funds, but also have authorization to seek grants and gifts from sources other than the state government. Revenues include a mandated share of the accommodations tax, state appropriations, departmental grants, and a share of the accommodations tax paid to counties and cities within a region's boundaries. Five of the regions have local commissions, created by special acts, which have no fiscal autonomy and are appointed by the

Governor on recommendation of the local legislative delegations:

Lowcountry and Resort Islands Tourism Commission
Old 96 District Tourism Commission
Pee Dee Tourism Commission
Pendleton District Historical Recreational and Tourism Commission
Santee Cooper Counties Promotion Commission.

The Olde English District Commission, also created

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of nine members appointed by the Governor. The authority may collect charges and fees, accept state appropriations, and issue revenue bonds.

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees (state). Created in 1999 as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, this entity was created to carry out the objectives of The South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Act and to lessen the burdens on government in implementing the act. The corporation is governed by a board consisting of 24 voting members, including the Governor serving as chair, who are either serving ex officio or are appointed by the Governor or leaders of the general assembly plus 8 non-voting members who serve ex officio. The board receives appropriated funds and may also accept gifts, bequests, and grants which may be partially designated by donors for specific counties and may be used for matching local funds. Local agencies providing services at the county level and known as “county first steps partnerships” are classified as county dependent agencies.

Tobacco Settlement Revenue Management Authority (state). Created in 2000 for the purpose of receiving tobacco receipts under the Master Settlement Agreement to issue bonds of the authority secured by those tobacco receipts, and to manage and dispose of the tobacco receipts for authorized purposes, the authority is governed by a five-member board comprised of the Governor or designee, the state treasurer, the comptroller general, the chairman of the senate finance committee, and the chairman of the house ways and means committee, all serving ex officio. Revenues of the authority consist entirely of revenues from the Master Settlement Agreement. Four funds within the office of the state treasurer were established to receive monies derived from the securitization of Phase I tobacco payments and any excess revenues after debt service and administrative costs of the authority. Four funds, two trust funds and two non-trust funds, were created to receive revenues.

Five districts do not have a commission and are:

- Capital City and Lake Murray Country
- Discover Upcountry
- Grand Strand and Myrtle Beach Area
- Historic Charleston
- Thoroughbred Country.

In 1997, The Pendleton District Historical Recreational and Tourism Commission was included in the special district description for recreation districts.

State Ports Authority (state). This authority was established by special act to engage in the promotion, development, maintenance, and operation of the three seaports within the state (Charleston, Georgetown, and Port Royal) and one or more harbors on the Savannah River. The authority also is authorized to acquire or construct port related transportation components and to make provision for a seafood industrial port in Beaufort County. The board consists

Healthcare Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund – This fund is designated to receive 73 percent of the revenues plus any excess revenues of the authority. Only earnings on the principal may be appropriated for allowable healthcare expenditures, including \$20 million in fiscal year 2001 for an increase in the hospital base increase; the Seniors’ Prescription Drug Program; youth smoking cessation and prevention programs; newborn infants hearing screening initiatives; and disease prevention and elimination of health disparities.

Tobacco Community Trust Fund – This fund is designated to receive 15 percent of the revenues and is to be used for reimbursements to tobacco growers, tobacco quota holders, and tobacco warehousemen for actual losses due to reduced quotas since 1998. After reimbursements, the balance is to be held in escrow until June 30, 2012 and then transferred to the

Healthcare Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

Tobacco Settlement Economic Development Fund

– This fund is designated to receive 10 percent of the revenues. The first \$80 million is to be used for the South Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fund and the next \$10 million in fiscal year 2001 only is to be used to assist in reducing the ad valorem tax on personal motor vehicles.

Tobacco Settlement Local Government Fund

– This fund is designated to receive two percent of the revenues and is to be used for grants distributed to local governments within South Carolina.

Other examples include:

State⁵

Catawba Health District
Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority⁶
County health departments
County disabilities and special needs boards⁷
Clemson Research Facilities Corporation
Education Assistance Authority
Educational Facilities Authority
Educational Television Commission
Governor’s School for the Arts Foundation, Inc (endowment fund)
Health districts
Legacy Trust Fund
Medical University of South Carolina (component parts listing)
 Medical University Facilities Corporation
 Medical University Hospital Authority
 Pharmaceutical Education and Development Foundation
 University Medical Associates
Municipal health boards
Old Exchange Building Commission
Palmetto Seed Capital Corporation
Patriot's Point Development Authority
South Carolina Children’s Trust Fund
South Carolina Infrastructure Facilities Authority
South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority
South Carolina Research Authority
South Carolina Resources Authority
South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority
The Citadel Trust, Inc.

County ⁸

Ambulance Districts
 Ambulance districts formed by county ordinance
 Allendale County Ambulance Service District⁹
 Aiken Ambulance Service District
 Chester County Ambulance District
 Colleton County Ambulance District
 *Horry County Ambulance Service Districts 1 and 2
 Pickens County Ambulance Service District
 Richland County Ambulance Service District
Anderson County Solid Waste Management Authority

Bridge districts--1922 law

*Community recreation special tax districts
County airport commissions and boards
County development boards
County economic development boards, commissions, and offices
County first steps partnerships
*County highway districts
County medical clinics
County transportation authorities
Darlington County Historical Commission
*Erosion districts
Fire protection service districts formed under general law
 Fort Lawn Fire District
 High Point Fire District
 Old Fort Fire District
Human resources commissions
Joint agencies to provide for the processing and disposal of solid waste (county)
Lake Wylie Marine Commission (joint county with North Carolina - assigned to Mecklenburg County, N.C)
Orangeburg-Calhoun Regional Medical Center (joint county)
Public libraries (single and multi-county)
Public service districts and metropolitan districts governed by county council
Recreation districts and commissions
 *Community recreation special tax districts
 Recreation districts and commissions lacking fiscal autonomy and created by special acts (county)
*Special police districts for unincorporated communities
*Special taxing districts

Municipal ^{10 11 12 13}

Chapin Memorial Library (Myrtle Beach) ¹⁴
Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority
Municipal improvement districts
 Improvement districts created under general law
 Hartsville Parking, Beautification, and Business Improvement District
Joint agencies to provide for the processing and disposal of solid waste (city)
Municipal airport commissions and boards
Municipal public works commissions (except the Gaffney Board of Public Works)
Park and recreation boards (municipalities with 36,000 to 55,000 pop)
Park, recreation, facility acquisition corporations (municipalities over 50,000 pop)

Non-profit corporations financed by federal loans are classified as private entities.

South Carolina laws also provide for various types of local areas for election purposes and administration of justice.

1. The 17 counties with two or more school districts each are as follows: Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Clarendon, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Greenwood,

Hampton, Laurens, Lexington, Marion, Orangeburg, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, and York.

2. Counts cited in the text are based on information provided to the South Carolina School Boards Association by school districts:

Districts with total fiscal independence (23) – Aiken, Berkeley, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Darlington, Edgefield, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington 1-5, Marlboro, Spartanburg 1-7, Union.

Districts with no fiscal authority (26) – Dillon 1-3; Florence 2,3,5; Beaufort; Calhoun; Clarendon 1, 2, 3; Colleton; Greenwood 50, 51, 52; Hampton 1 & 2; Jasper, Lee McCormick; Oconee; Richland 1 & 2; Saluda; Sumter 2 & 17.

Districts with limited fiscal authority (33) – Allendale; Anderson 1-5; Bamberg 1 & 2; Barnwell 19, 29, 45; Chesterfield; Dorchester 2 & 4; Fairfield; Florence 4; Greenville; Lancaster; Laurens 55 & 56; Marion 1, 2, 7; Orangeburg 3, 4, 5; Newberry; Pickens; Williamsburg; York 1-4.

Districts with statutory millage limits (3) – Abbeville, Florence 1, Kershaw.

3. For the 1997 Census of Governments, the McCarthy Tetzler School was classified as a dependent school system, dependent on Spartanburg County School District 7. Special education in Spartanburg County is administered by Spartanburg County School District 7 through a contractual arrangement with the other six school districts in the county. Data for the McCarthy Tetzler School previously were reported separate from data for the district, but are now included in district reports.

4. The Greenville Arena District, prior to the 2002 Census of Governments, was known as the Greenville Memorial Auditorium District.

5. Authorizing legislation for the Savannah Valley Authority (formerly Clarks Hill-Russell Authority), the South Carolina Railways Commission, and state highway commissioner districts was repealed in 1993. Authorizing legislation for the South Carolina State Family Farm Development Authority was repealed in 1988.

5. The Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority was classified as a special district prior to 2002.

6. County disabilities and special needs boards, prior to the 2002 Census of Governments, were referred to as county mental retardation boards.

7. Public libraries created by special acts no longer exist, having been replaced with a general law requirement for all county governments to provide public library services.

8. Allendale County Ambulance Service District, prior to the 2002 Census of Governments, was classified as the only independent special district ambulance service district in South Carolina.

9. The following recreation boards, created by special acts in 1957, no longer exist in Darlington County:

Hartsville Township Recreation Board
LaMar Recreation Board
Society Hill Recreation Board.

Darlington County government is responsible for providing recreation activities within the county boundaries. In the case of Hartsville, the city owns the facilities and the county provides the employees for recreation programs.

10. In Lancaster County, the Park and Playground Commission for the City of Kershaw and the Park and Playground Commission for Heath Springs, both created by special legislation in 1953, no longer exist. The department of recreation for Kershaw is responsible for the operation of these facilities in Kershaw and the department of recreation for Lancaster County is responsible for the operation of these facilities in Heath Springs.

11. In Oconee County, the Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Commission for Seneca, created by special legislation in 1964, no longer exists. The department of recreation for Seneca is responsible for the operation of these facilities.

12. The Northwest Section Paving District (Charleston), created by a 1941 special act, no longer exists.

13. Chapin Memorial Library in Myrtle Beach is the only municipal library in South Carolina.